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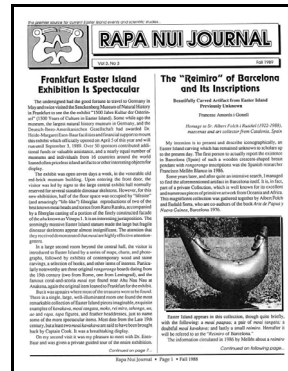
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

While we are extremely gratified by the lengthy and highly complimentary reviews of our recent books and the two Paris exhibitions — by Paul Horley in *RNJ* 22(2) and by Paul Bahn in *RNJ* 23(1) — we feel it is important to clarify one crucial point. While we did indeed organize the second exhibition in the Espace Electra ourselves, the one presented in the Louise Leiris Gallery (June-July 2008), which included the whole Rapanui collection of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, was entirely conceived and produced by Quentin Laurens, the director of this Gallery and of the Editions Louise Leiris. This exceptional exhibition was organised by our publisher on the occasion of the launch of our book, *Treasures of Easter Island*.

— Catherine & Michel Orliac

20 YEARS AGO IN THE RNJ



A distressing report of vandalism to one of the island's best cave paintings was reported to CONAF by Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg. During recent field work on Motu Nui, it was noted that cuts of up to 7 cm deep had been made at several points around the painting, apparently in an attempt to remove it intact. Flakes of stone with paint on them were also observed on the floor of the cave. It is not known when the damage was done, but

CONAF officials note that it must have occurred between last year's site inspection and July 1989.

A fire that blackened the slopes of Rano Raraku was reported to have cracked some of the *hare paenga* stones that lie around the south side of the crater.

Salvage divers from Valparaíso have been looking at debris left on the ocean floor by the [1983] wreck of the *Regent Oak*.

A group from *Surfer Magazine* was on the island for two weeks, filming surfers in action along the coast. The surfers were Brazilian champions.

MOAI SIGHTINGS

RAPANUIPHILE BARBARA HINTON called our attention to a new, EI-related product released last April on Amazon.com — “The Desktop Heads of Easter Island: They’re Watching You!” For \$6.95 you get a little box with 4 small, crude *moai* each about 3.5" (8.4 cm) in height. Also in the box is a reasonably well written 32-page perfect-bound booklet from Running Press Miniature Editions (2009; ISBN-13: 978-0762435920). The description from Amazon.com reads as follows:

For hundreds of years, the stone heads of Easter Island have sat perched on their platforms, gazing mystically out over land and sea. Now the impressive Pacific site can be viewed on a desktop near you! This kit comes with four miniature replicas of stone heads of Easter Island in various shapes and sizes. One can stare back above a computer screen like a micromanaging boss, while others act as paper-weights or mesmerize co-workers to turn away each time they reach for your candy dish. Those heads will never let a cubicle or office feel lonely again!



NOT QUITE A MOAI BUT IT'LL DO UNTIL ONE COMES ALONG ...

This photo, taken by Torrey Tepano Padgett, depicts a *tangata manu* that's featured on a wall mural at the Pacific Asia Museum (PAM) in Pasadena. Unveiled in December 2007, the mural serves three creative goals: First, to "sign" the building with the Museum's logo; second, to identify the building as a place for Asian art; and third, to provoke interest and encourage passing drivers and pedestrians to venture in and experience the Pacific Asia Museum. Well, no one can argue with that!

The PAM is one of only four institutions in the United States dedicated exclusively to the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific islands and it's been around since 1971. For more information, visit the Museum's Web site:

<www.pacificasiamuseum.org>



NGS PUZZLE

Shawn McLaughlin found this for sale on Amazon.com. It's a 100-piece puzzle that, when assembled, features a fun, beautiful 9 1/8" x 10 3/8" (23.18 cm x 26.35 cm) size color photo of Ahu Akivi. Good for kids 5 and up and, at only \$2.98, it won't exactly break the bank. Photo by Shawn McLaughlin.



RONGORONGO UNDER FOOT

Recent renovations of the floors at the Thompson Library at Ohio State University include 49 new brass inlays, one of which is based on *rongorongo* glyphs. The URL listed below points to a page on the Ohio State University's Web site where *The Lantern* features a video about the renovations showing, among others, the *rongorongo* artwork, which the graphic designer reports is the longest of the inlays. Note: The footage showing the plaque starts at 1 minute and 34 seconds into the clip and runs for 13 seconds. Enjoy!

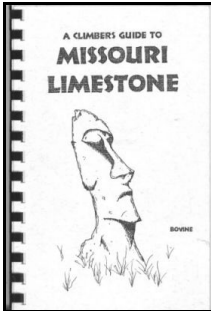
Source: *The Lantern* (May 15, 2009)



Here's the URL for the video clips:

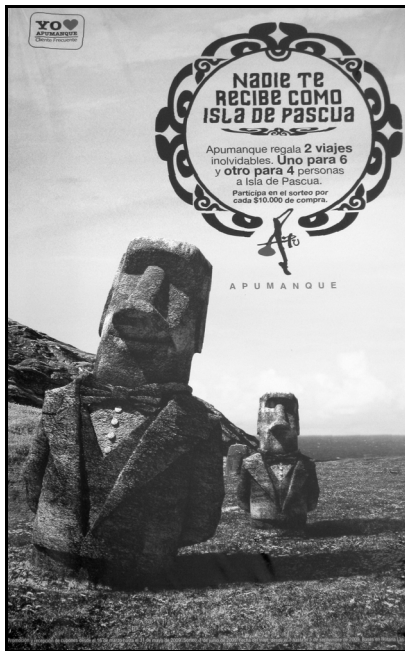
<<http://media.www.thelantern.com/media/storage/paper333/news/2009/05/15/Campus/Lively.Languages-3741594.shtml>>

Photos courtesy the Thompson Library.



IT'S NOT CLEAR why a *moai* is featured on the cover of *A Climbers Guide to Missouri Limestone*, but sometimes that's the way it goes. We don't call it "MOAI SIGHTINGS" for nothing. The spiralbound book written in 1995 by an author identified as "Bovine", has 100+ pages and features maps and diagrams. Thanks to Mark Bright for bringing this to our attention.

RIET DELSING shared with us several photos taken of a *moai*-themed billboard appearing in front of Apumanque, a shopping mall in an upscale Santiago neighborhood. The advertisement reads, "Nobody receives you like Easter Island". Apumanque gives away trips to the island as part of a lottery. One participates by first spending at least 10,000 pesos (~\$19.00). Thanks, Riet!



WHAT'S NEW ON EASTER ISLAND

A NEW BANK has opened in Hanga Roa. According to Charlie Love, the Santander Bank is "right down on the coast but east of the coastal road, and south of Playa Pea. The coast bulges to the west there so it is on a sort of rounded point. It is pretty spiffy and the ATM is inside the foyer out of the weather, and is far more secure than the one in front of the state bank" (which someone tried to steal not too long ago).

GOOD NEWS

It was reported at the end of August that ADI Environmental Technology secured a contract with the Hanga Roa Hotel to provide wastewater treatment. Design of the new system is underway and is expected to be operational for the 2009-2010 tourist season. It all goes according to plan, this system will provide such a high-quality wastewater treatment that it can be directly discharged into a "local stream" [whatever that might be!]. Apparently a similar ADI System treatment plant has been operating successfully at the island's Hotel Explora.

Source: *E-Hospitality.com* (August 20, 2009)

MATAVERI AIRPORT BLOCKED

On Sunday, August 16, Chile suspended flights to Easter Island after demonstrators occupied Mataverí Airport ostensibly in protest of unchecked tourism, Santiago's *La Tercera* reported, citing Pablo Ortega, head of the civil aviation authority. The protest started with 20 locals and eyewitness reports state that the number grew to ten times as many by the time LAN shut down flights, stranding as many as 600 passengers in Santiago alone. According to one report, the protesters parked cars on the runway.

Although an equal if greater concern appears to lie with "foreigners and even mainland Chileans settling on the island as residents", according to news reports, tourism is, after all, an important part of Easter Island's economy. "We depend on [tourism] for our livelihood", said Mayor Carmen Zasso Paoa, "but we also have to manage our water resources, energy and trash collection". Controversial demands include registering for tourists as they arrive and restricting their length of stay on the island. Flights resumed on Monday, August 17th.

Sources: *Yahoo! News*; *Bloomberg.com*;

MercoPress; *USA Today* (August 17, 2009)

Thanks also to José Miguel Ramírez, Nikko Haoa, Conny Martin, and others who kept us up to date.

FOOTBALL ON EASTER ISLAND

On August 5 the Chilean Football Association held a match on Easter Island in the field adjacent to the gymnasium and across Policarpo Toro from Ahu Tautira. The "Copa Chile" is a nationwide competition that affords amateur teams the opportunity to take on professional clubs. It's not the first time Easter Island has hosted such a match; twice before, in 1996 and again in 2000, a team from the Juan Fernández Islands played against Rapanui athletes. Although the current Easter Island team lacks professional footballers, it is composed of craftsmen, fishermen, farmers, and dancers who are described as being in good physical condition and "very enthusiastic", said trainer Miguel Angel Gamboa. The event was broadcast live across Chile by Canal 13.

Although *Fifa.com* (Chile's football's governing body) hyperbolically described the clash as the island's "match of the century", this was a disingenuous way of describing the competition, given the disparity in experience between the two teams (with Colo Colo having been dubbed the "Manchester United of Chilean Football"). Nevertheless, it turned out to be